

REMARKS

This is in response to the Final Office Action dated January 21, 2005 (the "Final Office Action").

Claims 1, 15, 19 and 22 are amended, claim 18 is cancelled, and no claims are newly added; as a result, claims 1-17 and 19-22 are now pending in this application. Support for the amendments is found generally within the figures and the detailed description of the patent application.

Rejection based on 37 C.F.R. 1.75

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is moot in light of the cancellation of claim 18 and amendment of claim 19. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims and Claims Objected To

Applicant notes that claims 21-22 were allowed and that claims 18 and 19 were only objected to. Applicant amended claim 15 to include the limitations of claim 18, and thereby cancelled claim 18. Applicant also amended claim 19 to depend from amended claim 15. Thus, it is believed that claims 15-17 and 19-20 are patentable for at least the reasons indicated in the Final Office Action.

Indication of allowability of claims 15-17 and 19-20 is respectfully requested in the next official communication. Accordingly, the obviousness rejections to claims 15-20 are believed moot.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

The obviousness rejections of claims 15-20 are believed moot for the reasons stated above. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 15-17 and 19-20 are respectfully requested. Thus, this portion of the Remarks will focus on claims 1-14. Applicant notes the rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. 103 and respectfully submits that the rejections are moot in view of the amendments made to independent claim 1. Applicant has made this amendment to advance this

application to allowability. The right to prosecute the claims in their form prior to this amendment is reserved to a continuation application. Thus, this amendment is not an admission of the assertions made in the Final Office Action, and such assertions, although traversed, are believed moot in light of the amendments to claim 1.

Claim 1 was amended to recite, among other things a first layer of heat shrinkable tubing encapsulating at least the first end and the first core end; and a second layer of heat shrinkable tubing covering at least a portion of the first lead and second lead, wherein the first layer extends beyond the second layer. Thus, it is believed that the recited subject matter is patentable. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-14 are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6912 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

PETER BERNIER

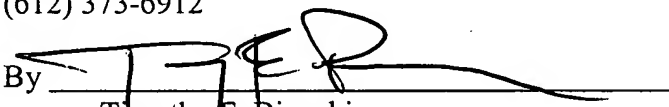
By his Representatives,

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Date

June 20, 2005

By


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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 21st day of June, 2005.

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